



On Our Way to the Beach	
Author: Sofie Laguna	Illustrator: Andrew McLean
Scholastic, Sydney	First printed in 2004 – Reprint 2005
ISBN: 1862915202	Grades 4-6
<p><i>On Our Way To The Beach</i> is a story about a journey a family takes to the beach. The family of six set off in a green van feeling really excited as they had not been to the beach before. The trip takes a couple of days and the family enjoys exploring the places where they stop to take breaks. The water colour illustrations provide warmth to the book that is fitting with the context of a family travelling together exploring and dreaming about new adventures and new places.</p>	
<p>Teaching Ideas</p> <p>The journey the family takes provides an engaging context for students to explore concepts related to time and the passage of time. Mapping the journey and planning other journeys would extend the use of the book to developing understanding of coordinate geometry and scale.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Activities</p> <p>How long did it take?</p> <p>Students construct a time line of the journey, mark when the family stopped and determine how long the trip may have taken. Students are required to make judgements about how long the family spends driving and exploring the places where they stop. The time line is then used to answer questions about the trip – Where did the family first stop? What did the family do the before they stopped to buy fruit?</p> <p>Where did they go?</p> <p>Resources: Road map of Tasmania or an atlas.</p> <p>The journey detailed on the timeline is transferred to a map. Starting points may vary but the journey must end at the beach. Students use features of the map to describe the journey in much the same way as with the timeline but have town names, rivers, lakes, and mountains to describe the journey. Coordinates on the map can be used as well. Alternate routes could be considered.</p> <p>How far did they travel?</p> <p>Resources: Road map of Tasmania or an atlas</p> <p>Students use distances on the map to determine the distance travelled by the end of the journey and for sections of the journey. Also students could determine the distance travelled as the crow flies and the direction of the destination from the starting point.</p>	